The Council expressed deep concern at the large scale exodus of the residents from the Kashmir Valley due to atrocities and coercion by extremists and hoped that conditions would be created for early return of these migrants to their homes in the valley.

The National Integration Council welcomed the Government's decision to hold elections in Punjab in February, 1992 and appealed to all political parties to defeat the efforts of the terrorist and secessionist elements to disrupt the conduct of elections. The Council also noted the initiatives which are being taken by the Government for larger involvement of the people of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir in the development and other activities, and hoped that necessary steps will be taken to find a solution to the outstanding problems of these States. It reaffirmed its faith in energising the democratic and political processes in these States and hoped for early creation of a suitable climate for the purpose.

In a pluralistic society with large cultural, social and economic diversity, there are bound to be differences in the approaches to a problem. There can also be genuine grievances of people which need redress. However these have to be resolved in a democratic manner through a process of dialogue and discussion. Taking recourse to violence for redress of grievances or settling of disputes would undermine the very foundation of our democratic polity. The National Integration Council resolve to meet any challenge from such extremist and anti-national forces to the unity and integrity of the country.

The National Integration Council appealed to the section of the youth in the disturbed areas which has taken to the path of violence and isolation to rejoin the national mainstream. It urged the youth not to permit itself to be exploited by the forces from across the border.

The Council underlined that in this difficult situation, effort must be made to find e common denominator and to evolve a national consensus to deal with the challenge posed by the proxy war inflicted on the country. The Council appealed to all political parties, organisations and people at large to join in normalisation of the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab and to refrain from saying or doing anything which would undermine these efforts.

Issues of freedom fighters of Goa

3606. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have settled the issue of underground Hyderabad freedom fighters by appointing a Committee headed by Govindbhai Shroff;

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to appoint a similar committee to solve the issue of Goa Freedom Fighters; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) to (c) A Non-official Screening Committee headed by Shri Govindbhai Shroff was appointed to scrutinise certain types of cases of persons from the erstwhile Hyderabad State due to the peculiar circumstances prevailing in that State.

In respect of Goa, the Govt, has not felt the need to appoint a separate Committee, since the Goa liberation movement has been recognised as a part of National Freedom Struggle and the cases from Goa are being processed by the Govt, of India, by applying the eligibility norms laid down in the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme.

Killings in J & K

3607. SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the killing of Hafizullah Shah and bis family on the 30th